

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----096061 181559Z /43

O R 181350Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 248  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 0989

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
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TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 42000, (B) STATE 41087, (C) KUWAIT 939

1. I MET FEBRUARY 18 WITH FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY  
RASHID AL-RASHID WITH WHOM I HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT  
OF SOMALI-THEIOPIAN CONFLICT (REF. C).

2. USING MATERIAL PROVIDED REF. A, I EXPLAINED THAT USG BELIEVED TIME FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT HAD COME AND PROVIDED RASHID AL-RASHID WITH OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE UNSC RESOLUTION ON OGADEN CONFLICT.

3. I TOLD AL-RASHID THAT WE WERE NOT REQUESTING GOK TO SEND ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DELEGATION, WITH WHICH WE WERE ALREADY CONSULTING. (AL-RASHID WAS AWARE OF USUN CONTACTS WITH KUWAITI UN DEL.) HOWEVER, USG WISHED GOK TO BE INFORMED OF ITS THINKING ON THIS MATTER AND TO SOLICIT ITS ADVICE SO THAT WE COULD PROCEED IN COOPERATION.

4. AT THIS POINT AL-RASHID SPOKE UP TO AGREE WITH MY COMMENT (DRAWN FROM PARA 3, REF. A) THAT SOMALIS HAD INDEED ACKNOWLEDGED PRESENCE OF THEIR TROOPS IN OGADEN. HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE THEREFORE EVEN MORE COMMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE SOMALI INHABITANTS RESIDING IN THE OGADEN AND WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES.

5. I THEN MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REF. C RE NEED FOR SOMALI STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW AS  
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KEY TO SUCCESS OF ANY EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I NOTED THAT WE RECOGNIZE SOMALIS WOULD WISH TO ASSOCIATE CERTAIN CONDITIONS WITH SUCH A STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF THE OGADEN INHABITANTS. I REQUESTED THE COOPERATION OF THE GOK IN PERSUADING SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TO ISSUE A "WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW" STATEMENT AS THE FIRST STEP IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

6. AL-RASHID REPORTED THAT, FOLLOWING OUR PREVIOUS MEETING (REF. C), THE KUWAIT AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS ELEMENTS WHICH COULD CONSTITUTE THE BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, BUT THAT NO SPECIFIC REACTION HAD BEEN OBTAINED AS YET FROM THE GOS. THE GOK HAD ALSO BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SAUDIS ON THIS MATTER.

7. IN RESPONSE TO AL-RASHID'S QUERY ON WHETHER WE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF THIS STATEMENT WITH THE SOMALIS, I INDICATED THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO MAY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SIAD BUT THAT I HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS. I TOLD AL-RASHID WE WERE ALSO SENDING A SPECIAL

EMISSARY FROM WASHINGTON TO ADDIS ABABA SINCE WE HAD  
NO AMBASSADOR THERE.

8. AL-RASHID STRESSED THAT ANY EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A  
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST PROCEED ON A BALANCED BASIS.  
HE OBSERVED THAT THE SOMALIS WERE VERY MISTRUSTFUL  
OF MENGISTU BECAUSE THEY FELT HE MAY BE MANIPULATED  
BY THE SOVIETS. A NEW ELEMENT WAS THE POTENTIAL SPREAD  
OF THE CONFLICT IN REGIONAL TERMS AS WELL AS IN THE  
WIDER GLOBAL RESPECTS THAT I HAD MENTIONED. HE NOTED  
THAT THE RECENT KENYA-EGYPT AFFAIR HAD FORTUNATELY BEEN  
STRAIGHTENED OUT QUICKLY.

9. I ASSURED AL-RASHID THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THIS AND  
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THAT THE ELEMENTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THE  
PROPOSED SC RESOLUTION TOOK THIS INTO ACCOUNT. I  
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE OAU MEDIATION INITIATIVE, WHICH  
WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, MAY NOT GET ANYWHERE. THEREFORE,  
WE BELIEVED THIS WAS THE TIME TO TURN TO THE UNSC. OUR  
OUTLINE OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION STRESSED AND SUPPORTED THE  
ROLE OF A OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED.

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EXDIS

10. CONCLUDING THE MEETING, I AGAIN REQUESTED THAT GOK  
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COOPERATE IN PERSUADING SIAD BARRE TO MAKE THIS NECESSARY  
STATEMENT. AL-RASHID SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH  
THE FONMIN AND THAT THE MFA WOULD GIVE CAREFUL  
CONSIDERATION TO THE UNSC ACTION WE PROPOSED. HE PROMISED  
TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS EMERGING FROM  
KUWAITI DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOS.

11. COMMENT: I CHOOSE NOT TO COORDINATE WITH MY UK AND  
FRENCH COLLEAGUES WHO APPARENTLY HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED  
HERE IN THIS MATTER. I WILL, HOWEVER, BRIEF THEM ON  
THE GENERAL LINES OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH AL-RASHID.  
MAESTRONE

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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